

You are viewing one of thousands of biographies – click below for more, including Search box and access to Plant associated organisations.

[Plant Biographies](#)

[Bibliography](#)

---

*Physalis lanceolata*

[Synonyms : *Physalis hispida*, *Physalis intermedia*, *Physalis longifolia* var. *hispida*, *Physalis monticola*, *Physalis pennsylvanica*, *Physalis pumila* subsp. *hispida*, *Physalis virginiana* var. *hispida*, *Physalis virginiana* var. *virginiana*]

**LANCELEAF GROUNDCHERRY** is a perennial. Native to North America it has small brownish-centred, dull yellow flowers.

It is also known as Inedible groundcherry, Prairie ground cherry, Sword groundcherry, and Virginia groundcherry.

The transparent and fragile, papery-thin, greenish-brown envelope surrounding the berry dries as the fruit ripens and drops to the ground when the fruit is ripe.

This perennial has been declared an invasive weed in parts of the United States, a noxious weed in parts of Australia and an injurious weed in Britain.

*Lanceolata* is derived from Latin *lancea* (lance, spear) meaning ‘spear- or lance-shaped’.

For the Dakota North American Indian tribe lanceleaf groundcherry was a source of Spring food. They not only ate the bud clusters but also boiled young fruit pods as a vegetable to accompany meat. The small ripe greenish-yellow berries were eaten by the Navajo Indians.

Several North American Indian tribes included the plant in their medicinal lists. It was used for instance by the Omaha, Kiowa, Winnebago and Ponca Indians for treating headaches, stomach upsets and wounds.

Medicinally, local herbalists have relied upon the root for easing stomach upsets.